

DAILY OPINION SUMMARY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

This summary now appears 2 or 3 times a week, instead of daily.

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January 26, 1962

1. The Congo
2. Punta del Este Conference

1. THE CONGO

The "considerable evidence of current success" of U.S.-UN Congo policy continues to be stressed, mainly by supporters of the UN Katanga operation. With Tshombe, Kalonji and Gizenga brought to acknowledge Leopoldville's authority, these observers are hopeful that the base has been laid for Congolese political and economic progress.

The "curious dialectical relationship" between Tshombe and Gizenga, with each needing the other "to justify his own insurgency," has been "the justification for the U.S. backing of disciplinary action against both secessionists," says the Washington Post. Now the Congolese "are learning how to settle their own political affairs. This surely is encouraging news" (similarly, Louisville Courier-Journal, Providence Journal).

The "double proof of UN efficacy" ought now to silence the critics "who have been inveighing loudly against U.S. support of its Congo policy," the San Francisco Chronicle and some others maintain. To ABC's Edward Morgan, the Administration's judgment, on balance, "looks more than pretty good against that of such self-styled foreign policy experts as Sens. Dodd and Goldwater." "There is reason to crow," adds the Christian Science Monitor. "But reticence, not swashbuckling, is called for" in view of the hard work ahead in developing UN plans to aid Congo reconstruction.

"U.S. policy is as senseless as ever," some critics still argue, even though "the news on the surface suggests the situation is improving" (e.g., Human Events). Newly-disclosed atrocities by mutinous Congolese troops, several contend, should make the Administration "go slow about claiming any triumphs for its Congo policy" (New York News; Wash. Star, Dallas News). The Dallas paper adds that the Adoula government "is by no means pure of leftist influence," and its alleged assistance to Angola and Northern Rhodesia rebels opens it to suspicion.

The Chicago Tribune and Cincinnati Enquirer suggest that any orientening of the Congo picture has come as a result of "the

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THE CONGO
(Contd.)

spontaneous and outraged reaction of much of the American press to the UN coercion of Tshombe," which caused Washington to turn its efforts toward bringing Gizenga to heel.

2. PUNTA DEL ESTE CONFERENCE

Secretary Rusk's "eloquent appeal" for democracy vs. Castroism is applauded in comment on his presentation of the U.S. position before the Organization of American States (Phila. Inquirer, N.Y. Times, Sen. Clark, D-Pa.).

Ejection of Cuba from OAS agencies is supported as a "primary step" in isolating the Castro-Communist revolution by the Philadelphia Inquirer (also, Sen. Clark). The Washington Post holds that in many respects ejection would be "more drastic than sanctions--an unprecedented rebuke for an unprecedented challenge to the inter-American system" (similarly, Virginia Prewett; earlier, Kansas City Times and Johansson in Christian Science Monitor).

The U.S. 4-point program is approved by several. It is a "sensible come-down," says the New York Times, from earlier U.S. demands which are not supported by the larger Latin American nations. "Our delegation may still be demanding more than it will get," the Times points out. The U.S. program is "stronger" than that of 7 OAS members, says the Philadelphia Inquirer, even though it "falls short" of the wishes of many Americans.

The expected "half-loaf quality" of the Punta del Este results, says the Washington Post, is attributable to the earlier, "mistaken" U.S. position that sanctions were essential.

U.S. leadership is still misapplied, according to the New York Herald Tribune. Our greatest leadership should be in the fields of economic and social reform, "rather than in bidding up hostility to the present regime in Cuba." The Herald Tribune deplores the "apparent use of the Alliance for Progress as carrot-and-stick," calling this move a return to the "root cause" of our failure in Latin American relations over the past 20 years.

But others add their support to Secretary Rusk's linking of action against Castro with the Alliance for Progress (Hearst's N. Y. Journal-American and N.Y. Mirror; also N.Y. News).

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